

Mark 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him.

Analysis

Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat (πῶλον δεδεμένον ἐφ' ὃν οὐδεὶς οὕπω ἀνθρώπων ἐκάθισεν)—Jesus demonstrates omniscience in knowing exactly where the colt is and that it has never been ridden. The detail that the animal was never ridden is significant: unblemished animals used for sacred purposes must be previously unused (Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3). This young donkey, untrained and unbroken, miraculously submits to Jesus, foreshadowing creation's recognition of its Creator.

The command to **loose him, and bring him** shows Jesus' sovereign authority—He requisitions what He needs for messianic purposes. This isn't theft but divine prerogative. The Greek *pōlon* (πῶλον) means a young colt or foal, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9's prophecy that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem "lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." Where earthly kings rode warhorses, Israel's true King rides a humble donkey, signaling peace not military conquest.

Historical Context

The village was likely Bethphage, a small settlement on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope, less than a mile from Jerusalem. Jesus had stayed in nearby Bethany with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus during the days leading up to Passover. The

deliberate choice of a donkey rather than a horse fulfilled Zechariah 9:9 (written 500 BC), a prophecy every Jew knew pointed to the Messiah. Roman generals entered cities on warhorses in triumphal processions; Jesus' choice of a donkey was a counter-cultural statement about the nature of His kingdom. The requirement that the animal be previously unridden connects to Jewish purity laws for sacred use—the red heifer (Numbers 19:2) and cart carrying the ark (1 Samuel 6:7) had to be unused. This detail, preserved in all four Gospels, authenticates the historical precision of the account.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' foreknowledge of the colt's exact location demonstrate His divine omniscience and sovereign control over His passion?
2. What does Jesus' choice of an unridden donkey rather than a warhorse reveal about the nature of His kingdom and mission?
3. In what ways does the fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 challenge human expectations of how God's promised King would arrive?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγει αὐτὸν Ὑπάγετε εἰς τὴν κώμην τὴν
And saith him Go your way into the village G3588
G2532 G3004 G846 G5217 G1519 G2968 G3588

κατέναντι ὑμῶν καὶ εὐθὲως εἰσπορευόμενοι εἰς αὐτὸν
over against you And as soon as ye be entered into him
G2713 G5216 G2532 G2112 G1531 G1519 G846

εὐρήσετε πῶλον δεδεμένον ἐφ' ὅν οὐδεὶς ἀνθρώπων
ye shall find a colt tied whereon never man
G2147 G4454 G1210 G1909 G3739 G3762 G444

κεκάθικεν λύσαντες αὐτὸν ἀγάγετε
sat loose him and bring
G2523 G3089 G846 G71

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